

AMENDMENT

SERIAL NO.: 09/199,566

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a storage unit for storing therein authorization data printed on the receipt issued by the receipt issuing unit, wherein said control unit determines, when the authorization data is inputted by the data input unit, whether the applied for passport is to be issued or not by verifying the authorization to the storing unit, and when it is determined that the applied for passport is to be issued, prints the image of the applicant inputted by said image input unit and contents of the passport on a passport paper previously prepared using the printer unit and issues the passport obtained by printing using said issuing unit.

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28. (Three Times Amended) A passport transaction system comprising:
a center accessibly connected to a first database storing therein data for issuing certificates to applicants, registering data for issuance of passports in a second database, and executing examination for issuance of passports; and

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at least one passport transaction apparatus connected via a communication lines to said center for processing passport transactions by communicating with said center; wherein said passport transaction apparatus comprises

a communication unit for communicating with said center;
an image input unit for inputting an image of the applicant for a passport;
a display unit for displaying a guidance for the procedure for passport transaction;
a data input unit for inputting data for passport transaction according to the contents of procedure displayed on the display unit;
a printer unit for printing the image inputted by the image input unit and contents of

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description on the passport onto a passport paper previously prepared;

an issuer unit for issuing the passport obtained by printing with said printer unit; and

a control unit for controlling the communications by said communication unit, image input by said image input unit, display by said display unit, data input by said data input unit and issuance of a passport by said issuer unit; while the control unit accesses the center using the communication unit, asks the center to make determination as to whether the applied for passport is to be issued or not according to the data inputted by the data input unit, and when it is determined that the applied for passport is to be issued, has an image of the applicant inputted by the image input unit and contents of description of the passport printed onto passport paper previously prepared and the passport obtained by printing issued with the issuing unit; and the center verifies the data inputted by the data input unit according to a request from the passport transaction apparatus to the first and second databases respectively by the way of communication with the communication unit and returns a reply as to whether each applied for passport is to be issued or not according to a result of verification.

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